

Dear Parents,

I want to tell you how we are going about our planning for the fall, given the current uncertainties. Our crisis team, made up of school administrators, school nurse, and consulting psychologist is meeting regularly to determine the structure and way we will start our year, and we will continue to meet throughout the summer. Our decision will be impacted by Smith College and its decisions about its own instruction and facilities (although they may opt for remote while we could be on campus); and the advice and regulations of the federal and state government, and Northampton's plan. At this time, we are looking at three general possibilities: 1) regular on-campus school; 2) remote learning; or 3) a hybrid model. The hybrid model would be a combination of remote and in-school learning. As you can imagine, it is an ever-changing forward look, as new information becomes available. We are also considering the demands that social distancing or group limitations may place upon schools. At this time, we do not have an "end date" by which all this will be known. Much will depend on Governor Baker and decisions made by the college and Northampton. Smith College will be sharing their plans for the fall plans in early July, and on May 18, the Massachusetts reopening document said that plans for the 2020-21 school year are still in progress and will be announced soon.

At the same time, we are looking carefully at our curriculum and our remote instruction. We created our current model with intentional flexibility. This has allowed us to adapt and fine-tune over these months. We are learning much more about what has worked for students, teachers, and parents. We have set up a series of "think tank" sessions for faculty to reflect on what has worked best so far and what we need to improve. Chris Marblo is designing a survey for parents that will ask general and specific questions. We look forward to using the information from the faculty think tanks and the parent survey to help shape our instruction going forward.

I want to assure you that if we do remote instruction next year, it will be with a much more prescribed schedule and an easier means to convey information between school and home (perhaps a single portal or location for everything a student and family would need). We recognize that ease of communication is central to having distance learning be successful.

I hope this information is helpful. Please [reach out to me](#) if you have any questions. We will be giving you frequent updates in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Lulu Kellogg
Assistant Head of School